

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A TEMPO-free process of cleaning a polymer membrane filter containing residues from filtering beverages, the residues containing water-insoluble proteins and/or polyphenols attached to the filter and polysaccharides, comprising contacting the protein and/or polyphenol containing residues with a solution containing an oxidizing agent by back-flushing, said oxidizing agent being a peroxide compound and being used in the presence of a transition metal,

wherein the back-flush is performed at a rate of 0.5-100 liters of the solution per h per m² of filter surface.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the transition metal is manganese or iron.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the transition metal is complexed with a polyamine.

17. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.

18. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the oxidizing agent is a peracid.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A TEMPO-free process of cleaning a polymer membrane filter containing residues from filtering beverages, the residues containing water-insoluble proteins and/or polyphenols attached to the filter and polysaccharides, comprising contacting the protein and/or polyphenol containing residues with a solution containing a hypohalous acid by back-flushing,

wherein the back-flush is performed at a rate of 0.5-100 liters of the solution per h per m² of filter surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 20, comprising contacting the protein and/or polyphenol containing residues with an alkaline solution prior to said contacting with said solution containing a hypohalous acid.

22. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein the alkaline solution has a pH between 11 and 14.

23. (New) The process according to claim 13, wherein the back-flush is performed for a period of time between 1 and 100 minutes.

24. (New) The process according to claim 20, wherein the back-flush is performed for a period of time between 1 and 100 minutes.